

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 CU-04 RSR-01 /054 W

----- 018538

R 061530Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3581

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0532

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 12/31/76

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SF

SUBJ: TROUBLE AT BLACK UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

REF: CAPE TOWN 517 AND PREVIOUS

1. 150 STUDENTS FROM A HOSTEL AT BLACK UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE WERE SUSPENDED AUGUST 3 FOR REMAINDER OF ACADEMIC YEAR BY RECTOR J.M. DE WET.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND NEWSMAN WHO SPOKE TO SEVERAL STUDENTS ACTION FOLLOWED ALLEGED ATTACKS AUGUST FIRST AND SECOND ON HOME OF HOSTEL WARDEN O.H. MAKUNGA (AFRICAN) SENIOR LECTURER IN BOTANY. STUDENTS ORIGINALLY HAD PROTESTED IN PETITION AGAINST MAKUNGA'S SUSPENSION OF STUDENT FOR HAVING WOMAN IN HIS ROOM AND DEMANDED HIS RESIGNATION BY JULY 31. PETITION ALSO CLAIMED MAKUNGA REFUSED COOPERATE WITH STUDENTS' HOUSE COMMITTEE, WAS ARROGANT, UNABLE HANDLE BASIC DUTIES RELATED TO STUDENTS WELFARE AND WAS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE PRESENCE ON CAMPUS. MAKUNGA CLAIMED HE AND FAMILY HAD BEEN TERRORIZED AND SOME STUDENTS HAD THREATENED HANG HIM. STUDENTS DENIED ANY THREATS OF

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VIOLENCE. RECTOR STATED STUDENTS HAD NOT CONSULTED HIM OR

OTHER UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES ABOUT GRIEVANCES AND CALLED IN POLICE TO RESTORE ORDER.

3. AT MASS MEETING AUGUST 4 STUDENTS DEMANDED RECTOR REINSTATE SUSPENDED STUDENTS BY THIS MORNING (AUGUST 6) OR REMAINING STUDENTS WOULD STAGE WALKOUT. DE WET INDICATED HE WOULD CONSIDER REACCEPTANCE PROVIDED STUDENTS PREPARED TO ACCEPT UNIVERSITY AUTHORITY. HE IS NOW MEETING PARENTS DELEGATION HEADED BY FORMER TRANSKEI CABINET MINISTER C.M. NDAMSE IN ATTEMPT NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING STUDENT SOURCE ABOUT 100 STUDENTS OF APPROXIMATE 1,000...TOTAL ARE ATTENDING CLASSES.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESENT STUDENT PROTEST WAS DIRECTED AGAINST UNPOPULAR BLACK WARDEN IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF UNDERLYING UNEASE AND DISSATISFACTION WHICH HAS BEEN OBSERVED BY EMBASSY, CONGEN AND USIS OFFICERS DURING VISITS TO FORT HARE. BASIC CAUSES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE (REFTELS). THEY INCLUDE RESENTMENT AT PAUCITY BLACK TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, IRRELEVANCE OF CERTAIN COURSES AND TREATMENT OF STUDENTS AS OVERGROWN SCHOOL BOYS.  
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## Message Attributes

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